

Gallia – Mason (GM) ARES Newsletter

**ARES Information for Amateur Radio Operators
Gallia OH and Mason WV Counties**

April - May 2008



April - May 2008 Gallia – Mason ARES Newsletter

To ARES Members and Friends

We are interested in knowing if our email list is accurate. If not, have them contact us. Your feedback is important. You and your friends can see this monthly newsletter online at <http://www.arrlohiodistrict8.org> – Southeast Ohio ARES District

Ideas for articles and newsletter content are always welcome!

If you want to be removed from our list – let us know and it will be done.

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From Bud Carter – Survey Coming Soon

About 140 Amateur (Ham) Radio licensees in Gallia & Mason Counties will receive a mail survey in the next few weeks.

Please consider the question on the first page that states, “If your license is current, but you do not want to operate amateur radio equipment, would you be willing to help in other ways during an emergency?” (Examples include keeping a log/record of calls, operating a computer, and serving as a receptionist to other hams coming to the command post to help them find their way around, making, & receiving telephone calls).

This survey is being conducted by a joint amateur radio committee representing both counties. The purpose is to gain information for improving the activities and benefits provided to ham radio operators and our communities through the Amateur Radio Emergency Service.

Traditionally, ham radio operators have performed functions that pertain to radio communication only. However, “times are ah changing” and ARRL, ARES is broadening our perspective. In the future we will be finding ourselves performing many more roles when it comes to serving agencies engaged in disaster relief than we have in the past.

Are ham radio operators still needed to operate their radios? Yes. However, right now, if we experienced an emergency or disaster on a large scale, we would be limited in our knowledge of what role you would want to help with, thus the need for the survey – to get to know our local hams better.

So our survey deals not only with finding folks who will become actively involved in ARES and emergency communication, but what factors they are most interested in helping with.

“Not preparing, is preparing for failure.”

Bryson R. "Bud" Carter
73, Bud, KA8AUZ – ARES EC
740.446.4193, carter9536@sbcglobal.net

Local News

Hepatitis Clinic in Ohio – Model for Success - We share this with you because it reflects a real need in our own community that we are in the process of addressing with Tonya Warren, Gallia County Health Department. Our SET in the fall will revolve around this theme. Anybody with ideas and comments is welcome to enable this for our county. Please contact Bud with your ideas. We felt this was worth repeating from the ARES E-Letter.

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Ohio ARES Teams Lend Support to Hepatitis Vaccination Clinic



The Butler and Hamilton County ARES groups directed traffic for the vaccination clinic. Many events were taking place in the area of the clinic, so traffic control was a major concern for clinic organizers.



Members from both the Butler and Hamilton County ARES groups helped out at the hepatitis A vaccination clinic. From left to right: Ohio District 4 District Emergency Coordinator Robert Spratt, N8TVU; Hamilton County Emergency Coordinator Donald Ferneding, N8LMJ; Butler County Assistant Emergency Coordinator Loretta Urschel, W8LKU; Kevin Boyle, K8XB; Butler County Assistant Emergency Coordinator Gerald Dakin, W8ULC, and Hamilton County Assistant Emergency Coordinator Timothy Callahan, K9TGC. [Photo courtesy of Robert Spratt, N8TVU]



A nurse gives Karen Feichtner, KC8BZL, a hepatitis A vaccine. Clinic organizers suggested the ARES members who assisted with the clinic get vaccinated. [Robert Spratt, N8TVU, Photo]

When news of a hepatitis A outbreak alarmed residents of West Chester, Ohio last month, local officials sprang into action to inoculate more than 1200 people who had eaten at a local fast food restaurant; an employee with a confirmed case of the virus worked at the restaurant in March

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may have contaminated ice and other food items, health officials said. Inundated with more people than expected, Butler County Health Department and Emergency Management officials were overwhelmed with traffic, communication problems and general logistics of the event. When a second hepatitis A vaccination clinic was scheduled for April 5, officials called on local Amateur Radio operators to assist with communications, as well as traffic and crowd control.

"After the first vaccination clinic was swamped with people coming to get their shots, both the Board of Health and the Emergency Management Agency in Butler County realized they needed assistance," said ARRL Ohio Section Emergency Coordinator Frank Piper, KI8GW. "They had the super idea of bringing in the local ARES group and called on District Emergency Coordinator Robert Spratt, N8TVU, to organize some hams to come help out."

According to Spratt, officials at the first clinic could not communicate on their cell phones due to lack of coverage in the area. "Officials had only planned for about 800 people to show up to get inoculated. When they had more than 1200 people show up, they tried using their cell phones to call and get more vaccine, but they just wouldn't work." Calls made to 911 for police back-up to deal with unruly persons also had trouble getting through, Piper said.

Ohio has a statewide, secure, reliable public service wireless communication for public safety and first responders in place -- [MARCS](#) -- used by Emergency Management officials in times when traditional communications systems fail. "When Butler County officials tried to use it at the first clinic, the system displayed 'OUT OF RANGE' or 'NO SIGNAL' messages on every channel," Piper said.

At the second clinic, eight hams from both Butler County and Hamilton County were on site and ready to assist. The clinic, located at a church, was scheduled to run from 10 AM-4 PM. The hams were ready for early crowds; at the first clinic, people were standing in line more than two hours before the doors opened.

"When the ARES team arrived, they established the parking lot area, the traffic flow patterns into and out of the church area and set up the required communications," Spratt said. "ARES members canvassing the complex discovered several other events were on going at the facility, including a funeral, fingerprinting for youth sports, a planning meeting for a summer carnival and a planning meeting for the upcoming soccer season. Soccer practice also added to the traffic and pedestrian congestion."

More than 225 people received hepatitis A vaccinations at the second clinic and ARES directed more than 1200 cars around the property to their correct destinations on the property. The Butler County Health Department officials, clinic staff, the Butler County Emergency Management Agency, the West Chester Police Department and church officials thanked the ARES team for a job well done, all without any reported incidents. Spratt said that the Ohio District 4 ARES teams in Warren, Clermont, Hamilton and Butler counties have had prior Volunteer Reception Center and vaccination clinic operation training that "helped greatly in understanding and knowing what

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would be needed in the way of communications at the clinic, as well as security, traffic control and crowd control."

Spratt said that people coming to get inoculations "asked about who we were and who we were working for. We made some new friends in the community and recruited three or four people for the upcoming Technician classes. They thought what we were doing as volunteers was great and they want to become part of the team."

Piper concurred with Spratt. "In the Ohio Section, we have the Ohio Section Emergency Response Plan ([OSERP](#)). This is a small document compared to some ERPs I have seen. This document outlines how ARES is activated in the Section, who reports to whom and how communication flows. DEC Spratt and his team followed the OSERP pretty much to the letter, and it worked well. Many ARES districts have participated with their Regional Medical Response Systems in their assigned districts on tabletop exercises, as well as actual call-up drills. In February, District 3, under the command of ADEC Fred Stone, W8LLY, conducted a Pandemic Flu activation that extended over several days in February, including a real-time snow storm which affected the drill. This vaccination clinic this past weekend proves to all of us that ARES is vital to the emergency medical community."

According to the Centers for Disease Control, hepatitis A is a viral infection that attacks the liver and is spread primarily by close person-to-person contact or by consuming contaminated food.

CERT Training Completed

Bud Carter and Jeff Holstein recently completed CERT training along with 18 other people. In addition Tonya Warren completed the training. She is a participant in the ARES planning meeting, representing the Gallia County Department of Public Health. The training lasted 6 weeks, for several evening each week with a final test of search and rescue.

Some of the topics covered were: Disaster Preparedness, Disaster Psychology and Team Organization, Fire Suppression, Medical Operations, Weather Awareness, Search and Rescue Terrorism and Disaster Simulation.

Thanks to Stan Jones and the Woodland Centers for sponsoring and conducting the training.

SOARA (Southern Ohio Amateur Radio Association – Lawrence, OH)

Please visit their website at <http://www.orgsites.com/oh/soaraares>. They have added links; to several local radio clubs, ARRL Field Day Locator, coming events and Antennas by Steve W8AFX.

They are looking for hams to help provide communications for the 140th Ironton-Lawrence County Ohio Memorial Day Parade. Send you name to Ken or Jim. If your looking for radio traffic handling experience, this is the place to be on Memorial Day. Jim Rowe, N8TO
n8tvo@zoomnet.net

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Thanks, 73,
Ken Massie, WN8F
LAW CO OH SOARA - ARES PIO
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ARES Joins Medical Reserve and in Gallia County

The Medical Reserve Corps orientation was held on April 8 from 6-7:30. Seven new volunteers received an orientation to Medical Reserve Corps from Cher Bellar, the Lead Volunteer Coordinator for 21 Counties in Southeastern Ohio, Gallia-Jackson-Vinton RSVP & Volunteer Network Center and the Lead Volunteer Center, Region D, Ohio Citizen Corps. Of the seven new volunteers, two of them were ARES people, Bud Carter and Jeff Holstein plus Tonya Warren who participates in the ARES planning meeting.

The orientation covered the following:

- Medical Reserve Corps falls under the Citizen Corps umbrella of volunteer programs and provides a way for community members to assist with emergency preparedness and response efforts, especially in a medical or public health emergency
- MRC volunteers can provide important "surge" capacity to augment medical staff shortages during medical emergencies
- In Gallia County, assistance will be needed with information line services, security and situation monitoring (which is where ARES will be the biggest help), and assisting at alternate care facilities.

NOAA/NWS Radios in Our Schools

Child Care schools will be reviewed in Gallia County during 2008.

Mason County – The review of the radios in the schools is planned for 2008.

Gallia County Schools Pending:

- South Gallia High School
- Hannan Trace Elementary School
- Southwestern Elementary School

Gallipolis City Schools Done:

- Rio Grande Elementary School
- Gallia Academy High School
- Green Elementary School
- Washington Elementary School
- Gallipolis City Alternative School

Gallia County Schools Done:

- Bidwell-Porter Elementary School

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Clay Elementary School
River Valley High School
Vinton Elementary School

NOAA Weather Training – A Success

The training covered both Basic and Advanced. It was held on Tuesday, April 1 beginning at 6pm and ending at 9pm. It was taught by Fred McMullen, a professional meteorologist with NOAA and a ham radio operator, KD8GRJ.

The training was excellent and attended by over 40 people. Bob Hood, Chaplin for the Gallipolis Fire Department gave the invocation which started the training. Pizza and soda pop were served as refreshments. Excellent support for the event was provided by Kevin Kelly, Managing Editor for the Gallipolis Daily Tribune and Point Pleasant Register. Thank you Kevin!!

Also thanks to the Gallia County Department of Public Health and Tonya Warren where the training was held.

US Coast Guard Auxiliary – Introduction to Local Activity

Matt Morris, US Coast Guard Auxiliary, Commander of Flotilla 2-11 presented what they do to the ARES Planning Group recently. The essence of his comments were captured by Tonya Warren and follow.

Coast Guard Auxiliary is the civilian component of the U.S. Coast Guard and is authorized for Coast Guard missions except for law enforcement and military operations. Coast Guard Auxiliary frees up active personnel for homeland security missions. The Auxiliary helps with Homeland Security ID cards and other clerical duties and conducts water security patrols using personal watercraft.

Area of responsibility for Flotilla 2-11: Pomeroy Mason Bridge to the RC Byrd Dam, mouth of Kanawha to the Winnfield Locks

The Auxiliary has its own radio system. Sector Ohio Valley is primarily VHF.

Auxiliary has three types of radio facilities:

- Fixed
- Mobile
- Portable

Coast Guard used ham operators during Hurricane Katrina. The Coast Guard at that point realized the need to redesign the communications systems.

Auxiliary radio facilities use certain VHF Marine and HF Marine frequencies.

There are Radio Direction Finding stations, but are not used in the Ohio Valley sector because not necessary. Coast Guard has a new system called Rescue 21.

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All facilities are required to have a watch on Marine CH 16, distress and calling channel. CH 21 A, 22A, 81A and 83A are authorized for the Auxiliary to communicate during an emergency. CH22A is the Coast Guard channel.

Auxiliary COMM Program future: Communications for surface operations is now a focus. Operators are needed for the Division Area of Responsibility which consists of 70% of West Virginia, Eastern Kentucky, and Gallia, Scioto, Lawrence and one other county in Ohio.

New HF program launched last year to give the Auxiliary better emergency communication capabilities.

Requirement to participate in the Auxiliary COMM Program:

- Be a member of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, which involves an background check
- Successfully pass the AUXCOM specialty exam
- Be a radio facility owner-radio facility includes handheld

COMMS program is not the only Auxiliary program...most people are involved in more than one program. Other programs include, Aids to Navigation (AtoN) Verification, Finance, Marine Safety and Environmental Protection, Communications Services (like webpage), Operations (Surface and Air), Public Affairs, Publications, Personnel Services, Member Training and Public Education (boating safety), Marine Dealer Visitor and Vessel Examinations (courtesy inspections-vessel safety examinations).

The Auxiliary is a volunteer organization and requires yearly dues to support programs and an investment of time. Privileges include access to Coast Guard MWR (Morale, Well-being, and Recreation) programs, ability to wear the Auxiliary uniform and purchase uniform parts from the Coast Guard, purchase at Base Exchange except for alcohol and tobacco products, work and train with active duty personnel, participate in fellowship activities of the Auxiliary.

Matt also distributed cards with a phone number (877-24WATCH) to report any suspicious activities observed on the water. Matt also distributed pamphlets and enrollment forms.

Amateur Radio is being discussed by Communications Committee as an option in emergency communications.

Bud informed Matt that ARES is interested in helping Auxiliary in any way possible. Matt offered assistance as well and Matt agreed to be a standby ARES member. For additional information contact Bud Carter.

Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) for Gallia County

LEPC is a monthly meeting that is managed by Mike Null. Bud attends these meetings and represents ARES. Nothing to report this month for ARES.

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Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) for Mason County

LEPC is a quarterly meeting that is managed by Chuck Blake. Bud and Jeff attend these meetings and represents ARES. They now have communications with the Ohio State Highway Patrol in Gallia County. They are interested in a working relationship with ARES.

Tid-Bits – How Professional Emergency Responders Often View Volunteers

Unless a positive and long established relationship exists between professionals and volunteers, professionals who do not work regularly with competent volunteers are likely to look at them as "less than useful". There are several reasons for this. Fire departments have a long history of competitive relationships between professional and volunteer firefighters, and this attitude may carry over to volunteers in general. Police agencies are often distrustful of outsiders-often for legitimate information security concerns. Professionals in any field put a great deal of time and effort into their skills and training, and take considerable pride in their professional standing. As a result, they may view themselves as able to handle all possible situations without outside assistance.

Volunteers, on the other hand, are often viewed as "part timers" whose skill level and dedication to the job vary widely. Many agencies and organizations have learned that some volunteers cannot be depended on when they are needed most. Do not be offended if this attitude is obvious, and remember that you cannot change it overnight. It takes time for you to prove yourselves, and for a positive working relationship to develop and mature.

The middle of an on-going incident is not the time to try to change a "we do not need you" attitude. If your offer of assistance is refused, do not press the issue. The incident commander is busy with more pressing needs, and if he changes his mind about your offer, he will probably contact you. Remember: the served agency's authority should never be challenged. They are in charge, and you are not.

This is for the non Ham's, you Ham's should know this.

Why Do They Call Themselves "Hams"?

"Ham: a poor operator. A 'plug.'"

That's the definition of the word given in G. M. Dodge's "The Telegraph Instructor" even before there was radio. The definition has never changed in wire telegraphy. The first wireless operators were land line telegraphers who left their offices to go to sea or to man the coastal stations. They brought with them their language and much of the tradition of their older profession. In those early days, every station occupied the same wavelength-or, more accurately perhaps, every station occupied the whole spectrum with its broad spark signal. Government stations, ships, coastal stations and the increasingly numerous amateur operators all competed for time and signal supremacy in each other's receivers. Many of the amateur stations were very powerful. Two amateurs, working each other across town, could effectively jam all the other operations in

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the area. Frustrated commercial operators would refer to the ham radio interference by calling them "hams." Amateurs, possibly unfamiliar with the real meaning of the term, picked it up and applied it to themselves in true "Yankee Doodle" fashion and wore it with pride. As the years advanced, the original meaning has completely disappeared.

Charitable Immunity and Volunteer Protection Laws

I would like to take just one more minute, of your time. I think this is very important, every volunteer should read this and think about when an Agency or anyone else asks you to take a course or attend training, they are thinking about "protecting" the agency and the volunteers.

This is too long to type about so here is a web site you can go to:

<http://nonprofitrisk.org/library/state-liability.shtml> or <<http://nonprofitrisk.org/library/state-liability.shtml>>

Reference: Emergency Communication Handbook
ARRL
Nonprofit Risk Management Center

I welcome your comments, e-mail *KD8DMR@arrl.net.* <KD8DMR@arrl.net.>

Reference: ARECC Level 11 FCC Rules and Regulations for the Amateur Radio Service

73

Jeff Holstein
KD8DMR
KD8DMR@arrl.net.

GM ARES Metrics - March

Metrics are used to aid us in understanding activities and trends of our group.

Gallia County

Total ARES Members: 25
Membership Change from Last Month: 0
Nets, Drills, Tests and Training Sessions: 6
Volunteer Hours: 149
Public Service Events: 0
Public Service Hours: 0
Emergency Operations: 0
Emergency Operations Hours: 0
Total Number of Events: 6
Total Person Hours: 149

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10 meter Net Experimenting

Moe Siders began experimenting with a 10m Net for the past 12 weeks using a home made antenna. The net is held on Tuesday nights at 8pm on 28.305 mhz or 28.307 mhz the auxiliary frequency. Six people have participated each time he has activated the net. Practicing using HF and home built gear is an excellent way to prepare ourselves for activation. Moe is to be congratulated for his proactive innovation and leadership. Thank you Moe.

Calendar of Events

1. May 16, 17 and 18th – Friday through Sunday - Dayton Hamvention
2. June 28 and 29th, Saturday and Sunday, ARRL Field Day
3. May, June, Gallia County HAZMAT Drill – Date Pending
4. July 28 - 31, Monday through Thursday, SE Region Ohio, Pandemic Exercise
5. August 28, 2008 (approximately) Tribute to the River, Point Pleasant at the River Museum-possible ARES setup for outreach
6. September, ARES SET – Date Pending
7. September, Woodland Centers Annual Emergency Preparedness Drill – Date Pending
8. October, Flu Kick Off, Gallia County Health Department – Date Pending

Training

Storm Survey Class by NOAA

The Charleston Office of the National Weather Service is offering a Storm Survey class primarily to help emergency managers with storm damage assessment, but would be good for ARES hams who may be helping with the assessment effort. We are looking at possibly offering one in the Athens area this summer, but there is one definitely scheduled for October 22 in Jackson County, Ohio at 6:00 PM, Jackson County EMA, Conference Room Jackson County Health Dept., 200 E. Main St., Jackson, Ohio.

Upcoming Spotter classes:

May 14, 2008, 6:30 PM
Belpre Fire Department Training Center
133 Stone Road Belpre, OH
Advanced Spotter Class

Sept. 24, 2008, 6:00 PM
Jackson County EMA, Conference Room Jackson County
Health Dept.
200 E. Main St., Jackson, Ohio
Basic and Advanced

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Training Encouraged For ARES Volunteers

The ARRL and FEMA are offering several courses via the Internet dealing with emergency communications and terrorist attacks. There is a charge for the ARRL courses. The ARRL course page is <http://www.arrl.org/cce/>. It is strongly recommended that ARES volunteers take at least the ARRL Emergency Communications Courses 1. There a total of 3 courses for those who are interested in advanced emergency communications.

FEMA Courses

It is recommended that you take FEMA Independent Study Courses IS-100, IS-200, IS-700 and IS 800. There is no cost for the FEMA courses and they can be taken over the Internet. See the [fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov) web site in “Handy ARES Web Sites”.

Have You Passed Any EMCOM Courses?

Please let us know if you have taken and passed any FEMA or ARRL courses. Also, keep us posted on what courses you successfully complete in the future. This will help improve our training records so we can better serve you, ARES and the agencies we support.

Handy ARES Websites

This information can now be found on our web site at www.galliacityares.org.

Local Radio Net(s)

One way of preparing for the future is through participating in radio nets. We have two in our area.

1. Central and SE Ohio UHF Information Net for Ohio, Kentucky, West Virginia.
Every Sunday evening at 8 pm on 442.000 + Open, No PL. For net repeater sites and frequencies see the web site <http://www.geocities.com/ohiouhf/index.html> The web site was designed and maintained by Justin Drummond, KD8EAD, Londonderry, Ohio

2. MOVARC 2m Net

Every Monday evening at 8:00 pm on 147.06 + Open PL Tone is 74.4.

3. Maritime Net.

Every day, Noon and 10 PM EDT on 20m 14.300

Membership Information

Our ARES group has two operator categories: Active Status and Reserve Status.

Active Status: Members who are committed to regular participation in meeting, training, drills and other on-going activities and who constitute the core group of prepared and ready-to-respond personnel.

Reserve Status; Members who are willing to provide communication support in the event of a

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disaster or other emergency situation, but who prefer not to participate in meetings, training, drills and other activities on a regular basis.

ARES is NOT a club. ARES does not collect DUES!

You do not need to be a member of any Amateur Radio Club to be a member of ARES, although many ARES members are also members of one or more clubs.

For more information about ARES membership or activities contact Bud Carter at carter9536@sbcglobal.net or 740.446.4193.

73, Bill, KC5IND, MGM ARES
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740.256.1930